

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4024

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1662

EO11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF US MISSION PERSONNEL IN GDR: FRENCH
AND BRITISH PRACTICES

REFS: A. BERLIN 1612 B. STATE 203241 C. BONN 14875

1. FRENCH MISSION HERE CONTINUES TO PROHIBIT ALL MEMBERS
FRENCH MILITARY GOVERNMENT FROM TRAVELING IN OR THROUGH GDR
EXCEPT ON ESTABLISHED ACCESS ROUTES TO AND FROM FRG AND TO
EAST BERLIN. MISSION CONTINUES TO ARGUE FOR TOTAL SEPARATION
BETWEEN ITSELF AND FRENCH EMBASSY EAST
BERLIN, POLICY THAT IS HOTLY CONTESTED BY FRENCH
EMBASSY EAST BERLIN, WHICH HAS BEEN SEEKING ITS
REVERSAL. PROHIBITION ON VISITS OF MEMBERS OF FRENCH MISSION TO
FRENCH EMBASSY EAST BERLIN AND OR INSISTENCE THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS
WITH BUSINESS IN EAST BERLIN NOT BE PERMITTED TO ARRIVE
IN BERLIN VIA WEST BERLIN AIRPORTS ARE AMONG COROLLARY RESTRICTIONS
IMPOSED UNDER OVERALL POLICY OF TOTAL SEPARATION.

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2. UK POLICY ACCORDS WITH PROPOSALS IN REF A. BRITISH, INFORM US THEY FAVOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY WITHIN LIMITS IMPOSED BY DESIRE NOT TO BRING INTO QUESTION ANY RIGHTS DERIVED THROUGH FOUR-POWER AGREEMENTS OR EARLIER PRACTICES. HOWEVER, BRITISH HAVE THUS FAR ON PURE SECURITY GROUNDS NOT MADE MAXIMUM USE OF FLEXIBILITY THEIR POLICY AFFORDS THEM. TRAVEL OF THEIR WEST BERLIN PERSONNEL HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO SHORT TRIPS SUCH AS POTSDAM SIGHT-SEEING.

3. BRITISH ALSO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT PASSPORTS WITH UK COMMANDANT'S STAMP IDENTIFYING BEARER AS MEMBER UK FORCES BERLIN SHOULD NOT BE SHOWN TO GDR. TRAVELERS TO GDR ARE THEREFORE ISSUED AN ADDITIONAL "CLEAN" PASSPORT FOR THAT PURPOSE.

4. COMMENT: WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED IN BRITISH PRACTICES AS OPPOSED TO THEORY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE GDR PRESENTS ANY GREATER RISK THAN OTHER EE COUNTRIES TO US PERSONNEL AND SUGGEST TRAVEL TO GDR BE PUT ON SAME BASIS FOR SECURITY PURPOSES AS TRAVEL TO POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA ETC. UK POINT ABOUT COMMANDANT'S STAMP STRIKES US AS NEEDLESSLY SEVERE SINCE COMMANDANT'S STAMP IS NEVER REALLY SUED FOR IDENTIFICATION (EXCEPT PERHAPS TO FRG OFFICIALS IN FRG). AS FOR FRENCH PRACTICES, MANY FRENCH FRIENDS ASSURE US WE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED AND EVEN GDR IS ON TO SECRET THAT FRENCH MISSION WEST BERLIN AND FRENCH EMBASSY EAST BERLIN WORK FOR SAME GOVERNMENT. KLEIN

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